

# Parks and Recreation Department

February 2026

## Parks

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- Snow Buddy was completed in late February – with the winner being announced on Facebook. Maria Z was our winner.
- Adopt-a-Flower Garden – each year residents/organizations can volunteer to maintain a flower garden in one of our parks. We will be actively reaching out to local organizations and business for this community project.
- Ice Rinks closed mid-February – Commission Member Mark Hoard reported seeing folks using the new skating loop at Sanburnol. The Commission is considering if we should to the same at Able Park. We will work with Park grounds crew to determine if that is feasible.

## Department Activity

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- The Recreation Department is excited to share another partnership with SLP High School. We are working with the Pathways Business program to help identify ways to increase our marketing and engagement with our community. We had our initial mtg in the beginning of March. Some of the students are hear tonight. At the end of the project the students and the Recreation department will provide the council with its findings.
- We will be working with Mounds View on Music in the Park this year – this joint endeavor creates greater exposure and resources for this program.
- Extended Travel Trips are popular and 2 of the 5 in-house trips full, 1trips is at 75 percent full, while the remaining 2 are about half way. Alaska has 26 people signed up and will be our first partnership trip with Riley's. Our Collette Partnership has 9 travelers signed up for some great International trips.
- The Recreation Department offered 23 classes/programs that started in February. Pickleball is still very popular, senior day trips and free seminars are also popular.
- Sweetheart Dance took place at Kraus-Hartig VFW, with approx. 124 - 135 participants. (including walk ins)
- Senior Valentine Luncheon had 202 seniors signed up and was another great event for the community.
- February 4, we hosted an informational night for our New Able Park Adventurers Summer Day Camp
  - We had good attendance and are seeing enrollments continue with this new format.
- Director Scanlon attended the following meetings and events during June:
  - Department Head Meeting
  - City Council Session
  - Tower Days Mtg
  - Park and Recreation Commission
  - Weekly Park and Rec Staff Mtg
  - Adaptive Programs Mtg (Anoka County)
  - MASS Mtg
  - SLP High School Pathways Luncheon
  - St. Bens and Whitney Senior Center Hypertension Program Training
  - SLP High School Career Fair
  - DocAccess Software Program Mtgs

## Grants and other funding

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- CDBG Grant for Terrace Park has been submitted. We anticipate hearing mid to late March if we have been selected.
- MN Twins Community Fund – Fields for Kids. Waiting for updates

## Park and Recreation Commission

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- Park and Recreation Commission met in February and continues to look at ways to grow and improve.

## Tower Days 2026      June 4-6, 2026

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- Planning is underway – we are looking forward to the new format and events for 2026
- We have secured the band “Good for Gary”, fireworks and new this year “Ninja Anywhere”
- The committee will continue to review activities over the next couple of months.
- In the past we have had 7 levels of sponsorship. We have re-branding this and reduced the number of offering to 5.
- 2025 introduced a fresh new branded look – we will be continuing with that design. Staff are currently updating materials to reflect the new fresh look.

## Other

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- Staff in currently hiring for Summer Positions –
  - Playground Staff
  - Field staff – softball Umpire and Field Supervisor
  - Rec on the Go